

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

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December 14, 1994

TO: All County Welfare Directors
All County Administrative Officers
All County Medi-Cal Program Specialists/Liaisons
All County Outstationed Eligibility Worker Coordinators

Letter No.: 94-97

OUTSTATIONED ELIGIBILITY WORKER (EW) PROGRAM UPDATE

Ref.: All County Welfare Directors Letter Nos. 89-114, unnumbered letter dated July 9, 1990, 91-25, 91-108, 92-16, 93-18, and 94-23

The purpose of this letter is to provide counties with updated information concerning the Outstationing EW program. Outstationing, initiated under Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990 (OBRA '90), has been in place for four years. The Department of Health Services (DHS) is pleased that counties' efforts to provide increased perinatal access to medical services has been successful.

OBRA '90 Outstationing

In the past, counties petitioned for outstationing each March prior to the next fiscal year (FY). Counties were required to submit a summary of existing OBRA '90 outstationing activities as well as petitions for incremental funding for new locations which became federally qualified for the outstationing program.

Beginning with FY 1994-95, the funding for outstationing has been included in the county's base budget. The Department took into consideration counties' reports of actual caseload figures and other instation and outstation activities. The counties will be required to submit new petitions only for the sites which have not participated in the outstationing program in the past, and which presently meet the criteria for outstationing under OBRA '90. When adding sites, counties should be sure that projected sites meet the original intent of the outstationing program so that placement of an outstationed worker will result in quick determination of Medi-Cal eligibility for pregnant women and children born after September 30, 1983.

It is still mandatory that county welfare departments outstation EWs at Disproportionate Share Hospitals and Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC), unless it can be demonstrated that it is not administratively feasible to do so. During the last week in November 1994, DHS' Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch (MEB) will be sending a letter to FQHC and Disproportionate Share Hospitals to make them aware of the availability of the outstationing program and their obligation to contact the county indicating their interest.

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Page 2

Perinatal Outstationing

This funding is also included in the county's base budget. We do not anticipate any increase in the available funding for Perinatal outstationing for FY 1995-96. Therefore, once again, we are requesting counties to reevaluate their Perinatal outstationing program to assure that resources are being utilized appropriately and the number of applications supports the need for an outstationed worker.

Counties may modify their perinatal outstationing program (number of EW days, hours, discontinue/add sites) within their existing allocation if there is justification for such modification, such as: increase or decrease in projected number of applications.

Reporting Requirements

It continues to be mandatory that counties submit statistical reports on their outstationing activities. Beginning with FY 1995-96, MEB will implement a new form for statistical reporting. The data is needed to evaluate the efficiency of the program. The counties are to continue the present reporting format until the new form is implemented.

Please accept my sincere appreciation for your excellent cooperation and hard work in implementing and maintaining the outstationing provisions of OBRA '90.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Kveta Simon of my staff at (916) 657-2767.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Frank S. Martucci, Chief
Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch